

What is claimed is:

1. A beadlock including an insert casing and a bead spacer for providing an air passageway in a vehicle tire to be mounted on a wheel rim on which is located an insert valve and a rim lip for retention of the vehicle tire bead, said insert casing
5 including an insert bead adapted to push against said tire bead and to hold said tire bead firmly against the inner surface of said rim lip, the inner wall of said vehicle tire and the outer surface of said insert casing defining an internal tire space to be pressurized for inflation of said vehicle tire or depressurized for the deflation of said vehicle tire via said insert valve, said tire bead and said insert bead interposed between said internal tire space
10 and said insert valve, said bead spacer extending from said insert bead to an insert valve area corresponding in use to said insert valve location whereby to define at least one air passage for communication of said internal tire space with said insert valve, wherein said bead spacer is made of material sufficiently flexible to substantially conform to the contours of said wheel rim and sufficiently incompressible in at least one dimension to
15 provide said air passageway.
2. A beadlock according to claim 1, wherein said bead spacer is light weight and mounted to said insert bead.
3. A beadlock according to claim 1, wherein said bead spacer includes at least two spacer members which together define said at least one passage.
- 20 4. A beadlock according to claim 1, wherein said bead spacer is made from a woven material.
5. A beadlock according to claim 1, wherein said bead spacer is made from tightly woven material.
6. A beadlock according to claim 5, wherein said bead spacer is in the form of one
25 or more ribbons or strips of thick woven material.
7. A beadlock according to claim 5, wherein said bead spacer is made from tightly woven polyester fabric.

8. A beadlock according claim 5, wherein said bead spacer is in the form of at least one rectangular strip.
9. A beadlock according claim 8, wherein said bead spacer comprises a pair of parallel rectangular strips defining said air passageway therebetween.
- 5 10. A beadlock according to claim 3, wherein said bead spacer is made from a solid polymeric material.
11. A beadlock according to claim 1, further including an apron extending from said insert bead in use to said insert valve area to protect said inner tube against damage from said insert valve.
- 10 12. A beadlock for four wheel drive or low pressure applications comprising an insert casing and a bead spacer for providing an air passageway across an insert bead of the bead lock in a vehicle tire, said insert casing including an insert bead made from tightly woven fabric which is substantially incompressible in at least one dimension to define said air passageway.
- 15 13. A beadlock according to claim 12, wherein said bead spacer is made from tightly woven polyester fabric.
14. A beadlock according claim 12, wherein said bead spacer is in the form of at least one rectangular strip.
15. A beadlock according claim 14, wherein said bead spacer comprises a pair of parallel
20 rectangular strips defining said air passageway therebetween.
16. A vehicle tire for off road or low tire pressure applications comprising a beadlock having an insert casing and a bead spacer for providing an air passageway in said vehicle tire to be mounted on a wheel rim on which is located an insert valve and a rim lip for retention of the vehicle tire bead, said insert casing including an insert bead adapted to
25 push against said tire bead and to hold said tire bead firmly against the inner surface of said rim lip, the inner wall of said vehicle tire and the outer surface of said insert casing defining an internal tire space to be pressurized for inflation of said vehicle tire or depressurized for the deflation of said vehicle tire via said insert valve, said tire bead and

said insert bead interposed between said internal tire space and said insert valve, said bead spacer extending from said insert bead to an insert valve area corresponding in use to said insert valve location whereby to define at least one air passage for communication of said internal tire space with said insert valve, wherein said bead spacer is made of
5 material sufficiently flexible to substantially conform to the contours of said wheel rim and sufficiently incompressible in at least one dimension to provide said air passageway.